

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00534 151430Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3659

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0534

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT IN UPPER CASE -PARA 1)

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG, SU
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE - THE NEW FORMAT

REF: STATE 030235

1. FROM POLICY STANDPOINT, GIVEN NIMEIRI REGIME'S CURRENT PROFESSIONS OF CONCERN RE POSSIBLE INCREASE IN SOVIET INFLUENCE IN RED SEA AREAN I WOULD ASSUME SUDAN MIGHT BE WILLING RESPOND POSITIVELY TO COMMITMENT REQUESTED PARA

9, REFTEL. HOWEVER, PUBLICITY RE ANY SUCH ACTION WOULD BE ENTIRELY AT VARIANCE WITH THIS GOVERNMENT'S SETTLED NONALIGNED POLICY. EVEN IF GOS WOULD AGREE, THEREFORE, BELIEVE THEY WOULD EXPECT ANY BAHRAIN PUBLICITY TO BE GENERALIZED IN SUCH TERMS AS "OTHER ARAB/AFRICAN AND SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES IN REGIONS". SHOULD GOS AGREE, MOREOVER, WE COULD EXPECT CONSIDERABLE SUDANESE INTEREST IN QUID PRO QUO WHICH MIGHT GO BEYOND SUBSTANTIAL PAYMENTS FOR USE PIER SPACE WHICH ASSUME WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

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2. FORM TECHNICAL STANDPOINT, PORT SUDAN PORT FACILITIES ARE JAMMED. FLAGSHIP COULD NOT HAVE UNINTERUPTED ACCESS PIER SPACE FOR FOUR TJWL CONSECUTIVE DAYS WITHOUT SERIOUSLY COMPLICATING LOCAL CONGESTION AT PORT AND RISKING CRITICISM (WHICH COMMUNISTS MIGHT SEEK STIMULATE) THAT DELAYS IN HANDLING AND TRANSIT CARGO SOMEHOW ATTRIBUTABLE

USN VISIT. SITUATION IS SO TIGHT THAT MAJOR EFFORT CURRENTLY UNDER WAY DEVELOP NEW PORT JUST NORTH OF SUAKIN, BUT COMPLETION THIS ADDITIONAL FACILITY OBVIOUSLY YEARS AWAY. IN ADDITION PORT PROBLEMS, FIERCE PORT SUDAN HEAT SEVEN MONTHS OF YEAR AND TOTAL ABSENCE OF NORMAL SOURCES DIVERSION WOULD IMPOSE SPECIAL BURDENS ON USN PERSONNEL. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING PART OF YEAR THERE EVEN SERIOUS LIMITATIONS ON FRESH WATER SUPPLY.

3. VIEW FOREGOING, DO NOT BELIEVE PORT SUDAN SHOULD BE VISITED MORE THAN ONCE ANNUALLY AND THAT VISIT SHOULD OCCUR DURING NOVEMBER/APRIL PERIOD. WOULD BE PREPARED SEEK GOS COMMITMENT ON THAT BASIS BUT SUDANESE APPROVAL WOULD BE FACILITATED IF THEY COULD BE INFORMED PRIVATELY THAT SAUDI ARABIA, MUSCAT AND NUMBER AFRICAN AND SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES ALSO BEING APPROACHED. BREWER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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